

AMENDMENTSIN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of formulating a composition for preventing epithelial ovarian cancer for administration to a human female subject comprising selecting an agent based on its ability to upregulate TGF- $\beta$  expression in the ovarian epithelium by testing said agent by treating ovarian epithelial cells through exposure to said agent and determining the resulting expression of TGF- $\beta$  in the treated ovarian epithelial cells. for determining the effectiveness of an agent for preventing epithelial ovarian cancer in a human female, based upon the ability of said agent to upregulate TGF- $\beta$  in ovarian epithelium, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) exposing said agent to ovarian epithelial cells;

(b) measuring the resulting expression of TGF- $\beta$  in the exposed ovarian epithelial cells; and

(c) determining the agent to be effective for the prevention of epithelial ovarian cancer in a human female when said measuring step indicates an upregulation of TGF- $\beta$  in said ovarian epithelial cells.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said agent is a progestin product.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said ovarian epithelial cells are treated with said agent using an *in vivo* test.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said test is conducted *in vitro*.

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5. (previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said measured TGF- $\beta$  expression is upregulation of TGF- $\beta$  2 or TGF- $\beta$  3.

6. (canceled)